

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:
invoking a collaborative discussion by providing a distributed presentation to a plurality of users;
receiving a first message from one of the plurality of users that includes a rule, the first message associated with the distributed presentation but separate from the distributed presentation;
identifying a subset of the plurality of users that correspond to the rule;
forwarding the first message and the rule to the identified users;
receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users; and
~~at a recipient client corresponding to one of the identified users, modifying the forwarded rule; and~~
sending ~~a subsequent~~ the second message and the modified forwarded rule ~~from the recipient client~~ to one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first message includes a comment, and wherein the ~~recipient client is adapted to display the comment in~~ comment is displayed in the same display window as the collaborative discussion.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the comment is displayed using display attributes corresponding to a rule pen that includes one or more rules, one of the rules being the forwarded rule.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule sentences that each correspond to a rule, the identifying further comprising:

selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users; and

matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein at least one of user attributes is selected from the group consisting of a job description and an expertise.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein at least one of the rule sentences includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the modifying includes changing the number of rule sentences that correspond to the rule.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the received message is sent from a sending client, the sending client adapted to select a rule pen from a rule pen stand, wherein the rule pen includes one or more rules, the forwarding rule being one of the rules.
9. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:

one or more processors;

a memory accessible by the processors;

one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the processors; and
 a collaborative discussion tool that identifies a subset of a plurality of users that correspond to a rule, the collaborative discussion tool comprising software code effective to:

invoke a collaborative discussion by providing a distributed presentation to a plurality of users;

receive a first message from one of the plurality of users that includes a rule, the first message associated with the distributed presentation but separate from the distributed presentation ;

identifying a subset of the plurality of users that correspond to the rule;

forward the first message and the rule to the identified users;

receive a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users; and

at a recipient client corresponding to one of the identified users, modifying the forwarded rule; and

send a subsequent the second message and the modified forwarded rule from the recipient client to one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

10. (Currently Amended) The information handling system of claim 9 wherein the first message includes a comment, and wherein the ~~recipient client is adapted to display the comment in~~ comment is displayed in the same display window as the collaborative discussion.
11. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 9 wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule sentences that each correspond to a rule, wherein the software code is further effective to:

select a participant entry located in one of the nonvolatile storage devices, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users; and
match each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry.

12. (Original) The information handling system of claim 11 wherein at least one of the rule sentences includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function.
13. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 9 wherein the modifying includes changing the number of rule sentences that correspond to the rule.
14. (Previously Presented) The information handling system of claim 9 wherein the received message is sent from a sending client over the computer network, the sending client adapted to select a rule pen from a rule pen stand, wherein the rule pen includes one or more rules, the forwarding rule being one of the rules.
15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer storage media, the computer storage media containing instructions for execution by a computer, which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to implement a method of rule pen based conversations in a synchronous collaborative environment, the method comprising:
invoking a collaborative discussion by providing a distributed presentation to a plurality of users;
receiving a first message from one of the plurality of users that includes a rule, the first message associated with the distributed presentation but separate from the distributed presentation;

identifying a subset of the plurality of users that correspond to the rule;
 forwarding the first message and the rule to the identified users;
receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users; and
~~at a recipient client corresponding to one of the identified users, modifying the forwarded rule; and~~
 sending a subsequent the second message and the modified forwarded rule from the recipient client to one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

16. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim 15 wherein the first message includes a comment, and wherein the ~~recipient client is adapted to display the comment in~~ comment is displayed in the same display window as the collaborative discussion.
17. (Previously Presented) The program product of claim 15 wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule sentences that each correspond to a rule, wherein the method further comprises:
 selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users; and
 matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry.
18. (Original) The program product of claim 17 wherein at least one of the rule sentences includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function.

19. (Previously Presented) The program product of claim 15 wherein the modifying includes changing the number of rule sentences that correspond to the rule.
20. (Previously Presented) The program product of claim 15 wherein the received message is sent from a sending client, the sending client adapted to select a rule pen from a rule pen stand, wherein the rule pen includes one or more rules, the forwarding rule being one of the rules.
21. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:
invoking a collaborative discussion by providing a distributed presentation to a plurality of users;
receiving a first message from one of the plurality of users that includes a rule, the first message associated with the distributed presentation but separate from the distributed presentation, wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule sentences;
selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users;
matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user;
forwarding the first message and the rule to the identified user, wherein the first message includes a comment, and wherein a recipient client is adapted to display the comment in the same display window as the collaborative discussion, the recipient client corresponding to the identified user;
receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users; and
~~at a recipient client corresponding to one of the identified users, modifying the forwarded rule; and~~

sending a subsequent the second message and the modified forwarded rule from the recipient client to one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method comprising:

invoking a collaborative discussion by providing a distributed presentation to a plurality of users;

receiving a first message from one of the plurality of users, the first message including a plurality of rule sentences, wherein at least one of the rule sentences includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function, the first message associated with the distributed presentation but separate from the distributed presentation;

selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users;

matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user;

forwarding the first message and the rule to the identified user;

receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users; and

at a recipient client corresponding to one of the identified users, modifying the forwarded rule; and

sending a subsequent the second message and the modified forwarded rule from the recipient client to one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

23. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:

one or more processors;
a memory accessible by the processors;
one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the processors; and
a collaborative discussion tool that identifies a subset of a plurality of users that correspond to a rule, the collaborative discussion tool comprising software code effective to:

invoke a collaborative discussion by providing a distributed presentation to a plurality of users;

receive a first message from one of the plurality of users that includes a rule, the first message associated with the distributed presentation but separate from the distributed presentation, wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule sentences;

select a participant entry from one of the nonvolatile storage devices, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users;

match each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user;

forward the first message and the rule to the identified user over the computer network, wherein the first message includes a comment, and wherein a recipient client is adapted to display the comment in the same display window as the collaborative discussion, the recipient client corresponding to the identified user;

receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users; and

~~at a recipient client corresponding to one of the identified users, modifying the forwarded rule; and~~

sending ~~a subsequent~~ the second message and the modified forwarded rule ~~from the recipient client~~ to one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer storage media, the computer storage media containing instructions for execution by a computer, which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to implement a method of rule pen based conversations in a synchronous collaborative environment, the method comprising:

invoking a collaborative discussion by providing a distributed presentation to a plurality of users;

receiving a first message from one of the plurality of users that includes a rule, the first message associated with the distributed presentation but separate from the distributed presentation, wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule sentences;

selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users;

matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user;

forwarding the first message and the rule to the identified user, wherein the message includes a comment, and wherein a recipient client is adapted to display the comment in the same display window as the collaborative discussion, the recipient client corresponding to the identified user;

receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users; and

at a recipient client corresponding to one of the identified users, modifying the forwarded rule; and

sending a subsequent the second message and the modified forwarded rule from the recipient client to one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored on a computer storage media, the computer storage media containing instructions for execution by a computer, which, when executed by the computer, cause the computer to implement a method of rule pen based conversations in a synchronous collaborative environment, the method comprising:

invoking a collaborative discussion by providing a distributed presentation to a plurality of users;

receiving a first message from one of the plurality of users, the first message including a plurality of rule sentences, wherein at least one of the rule sentences includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function, the message associated with the distributed presentation but separate from the distributed presentation;

selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users;

matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user;

forwarding the first message and the rule to the identified user;

receiving a second message and a modification of the forwarded rule from one of the identified users; and

at a recipient client corresponding to one of the identified users, modifying the forwarded rule; and

sending a subsequent the second message and the modified forwarded rule from the recipient client to one or more subsequent users that correspond to the modified forwarded rule.